

(b) whether Government have taken some steps for creation of more jobs in the State for the educated unemployed youth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The number of jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of the employment exchanges in Assam as on 31.8.2001 was of the order of 15 lakh.

(b) and (c) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

A special group has been set up by Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

All these will help generation of employment for the all unemployed including educated unemployed, in the State of Assam as well.

#### **E.P.F. Scheme**

1306. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether many establishments, at present with the working strength of more than 20 workers, are still outside the purview of the EPF scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to give benefit of the social security scheme to these workers; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to de-link the Employee's Pension Scheme from the EPF scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to 180 industries/establishments as specified in Schedule I of the Act and in which 20 or more persons are employed. Continuous efforts are made to cover the establishments, which satisfy the requirement for coverage under the Act. Where any instance of non-compliance is detected, legal and penal action is taken as per the provisions of the Act.

(d) Possibilities are being explored by the Government for extending pension coverage to identifiable groups who are presently not covered under the EPF Scheme.

**Sub-regional offices of P.F. in Kerala**

1307. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sub-regional offices of Provident Fund functioning in Kerala;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision to open a Sub-regional Provident Fund office at Kollam in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) There are four Sub-regional office of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in Kerala located at Emakulam, Kozhikode, Kannur & Kottayam. The Executive Committee, Control Board of Trustees (EPF) in its meeting held on 5.9.2001 has approved the opening of Sub-Regional offices at Kollam in Kerala.

**Abolition of Child labour**

† 1308. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed a target to abolish child labour from the country by the year 2010;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government's programme for providing vocational training to rehabilitate the child labourers has been going on since long and under this programme an amount of Rs. 567 crores was allocated under this head during the period from 1980 to 2000 but merely Rs. 32 crores could be utilised out of this; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, the elimination of which would need sustained efforts over a period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal of children from work and their

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.